

FREDERICKSBURG, VA.
(AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.)
PUBLISHED TRI-WEEKLY.
Covers more than thirty counties in the 1st, 3rd, 5th and 8th Congressional Districts, and goes to subscribers at nearly 500 post-offices.
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Letters recommending or advertising candidates for office must be paid for.
THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 1901.

Weather forecast for Fredericksburg and vicinity.
Generally fair Thursday.

WE HEARD SWANSON make his great speech for silver in the State Convention at Staunton in 1896 and we have been his friend ever since. There were many so-called leaders of the Democratic party at that time who turned out to be only tumbrels—who tumbled into the ranks of the Hananites and tried to kill the party which had brought them from obscurity into prominence and had placed them at the head of the party. They were not leaders, but they were followers.

The Observer scores two good points in the foregoing that have largely been lost sight of in the present campaign, chiefly for the reason that most of the city dailies have been against Mr. Swanson. We have lately heard prominent men from various parts of the State declare that they had seen performances enacted by the ones who are now claiming to be the purists in politics which, if they could have gotten into the daily press, would have opened the eyes of the people to the true character of those who are crying "stop thief" and at the same time covering their own tracks.

The first point in our contemporary's observation reveals well to the minds of those who know how Mr. Swanson has labored and suffered for the Democratic party. And, on the other hand, it brings forcibly to the front the attitude of his chief opponent, who held office under a gold-democratic administration and was continued in office by a Republican administration because he was not "offensive" in the sense of working hard against the Republicans. His position when speaking in this city for Bryan, which has been elucidated by the Star, has a parallel in his own city of Danville. We are informed by a prominent newspaper man that he besought the newspaper correspondent there of Washington and Baltimore papers not to tell reports he got out about his speech. Why? Because he was forced by prominent Democrats to show his hand, and speak for Bryan; at the same time he was fearful of losing his federal office under the administration. Other Democrats refused to act in this way and were promptly officially decapitated—Francis R. Lassiter was a notable example. Major Lassiter was Mr. Montague's chief opponent for the Attorney-Generalship at Roanoke, and chiefly through Mr. Swanson's efforts Mr. Montague won.

WILL, FREDERICKSBURG ACT?
A company to be known as the Richmond Industrial Company is now being organized in our capital city, its object being industrial development. The movement commends itself to every observant person, and no doubt the manufacturing interests of Richmond will receive a great impetus from the project, and the city much substantial benefit.

Many cities are blessed with natural manufacturing advantages—Fredericksburg being included among them—but Nature does not propose to execute man's part in the development of natural resources and the building up of cities. Here is food for our Business Men's Association to reflect upon and to act upon. We are not fault-finding, but we have the future welfare of our city at heart, and we say in all kindness let us wake to the absolute importance of greater energy, renewed activity and concert of action for building up the city and developing its great advantages.

Some of the cities in the North have been built up by a similar movement to the one just inaugurated in Richmond, and the same principle will apply equally well to Fredericksburg. The Richmond plan should be looked into by our business men and then the matter brought before the Business Men's Association.

The Commoner is getting commoner every day. William J. Bryan is a great statesman, we suppose, but we know he is not a great orator—Danville Bee.

Perhaps the Commoner is not producing any nectar for the Bee, and it's a case of sour grapes.

There are few cities in Virginia that enjoy such natural advantages as Danville—Danville Register.

Just turn your kodak on Fredericksburg, brother, and the photo will convince you what the facts are.

The Ohio Democrats will ignore the money question in their platform—Old Dominion Sun.

But the interesting question is, Will you likewise ignore their campaign?

It is indeed refreshing to see that something fair has escaped the eye of the censor and appeared in the editorial columns of the Warsaw News. The following does not relate to Virginia politics, but that its counterpart is today being enacted in Virginia must agree, and we thank the News writer for making the illustration so plain. May we hope that it will make the application that others are doing in Virginia. The article reads:

"At one time the ancient banished Epaminondas from the high position of law-giver and made a street-sweep of him. The erstwhile law-giver meekly accepted his new position and showed, it is said, the same industries and pertinacity as street scavenger which he had displayed as the legal head of the ancient Greeks. Soon, under the manipulation of cranks and fanatics, things got into a snarl and Epaminondas was recalled from the gutter to his old position at the head of affairs.

"Somewhat the same conditions have existed in the Democracy of Maryland as obtained of old in Sparta. Arthur P. Gorman, who combined true statesmanship and unswerving party fidelity with keen political astuteness, was compelled to take a back seat in the political arena, and from that time to this things have gone wrong. Today every indication is that Gorman not only is, but will be in the future, the chief political figure in Maryland politics. Under his mastery management the Democracy of the State may look for higher days.

"Epaminondas has been called back. Vive Epaminondas!"

AN INDIANAPOLIS judge has decided that it is no offense to open a jackpot with counterfeit coin. The gambling fraternity, however, regard his decision from a four-flush viewpoint.

THERE is a wide difference of opinion among the gubernatorial candidates as to the definition of fair play, and none of the quartette appears to recognize Mr. Webster as authority.

The Virginia people are to be congratulated upon the fact that the Constitutional Convention will not be handicapped by district mass meetings.

WHEN the Civil Service Commission gets after the Indian agents, as it has decided to do, it might be the better part of valor to have their scalps insured.

THAT New York printer who raised money on bogus checks by forging Pierpont Morgan's name must be planning a break in Wall street.

HAVING had considerable experience with political stunts, the Honorable David B. Hill ought to be barometer enough to measure his weight.

SOME of the candidates are going to get sore because they didn't score high enough to scale the wire at the gubernatorial grandstand.

THE British being unable to locate the Boers successfully are now in quest of "simplification and decentralization of details."

IF THE gubernatorial candidates have the tenacity of the Richmond baseball team they will certainly stick to the end.

GOV. McSWENEY has demonstrated that he has no ambition to be the advance agent of a political revolution.

THE Virginia Republicans are contemplating a switch-off in their political modus operandi.

SOME of the gubernatorial candidates have already taken snapshots of the ogre of defeat.

CONGRESS may yet be delegated to champion the U. S. Supreme Court's insular technicalities.

COTTON, copper and oil are running a neck-and-neck race for the kingship of the country.

BETWEEN baseball, golf, yachts and politics the country is in a state of perturbation.

Yor have to find the illicit vendor before you can fine him.

POLITICAL
One of the features of the campaign for Governor is the great number of contested cases.

Dr. LeCato could undoubtedly prescribe a good man for the general benefit of the State ticket.—Rich. News.

The full return from Hanover show that Montague has received 10 delegates, Swanson 2 and Echols 1.

Swanson carried Ashland Precinct, Hanover county, Monday by 133 to 106 for Montague. It was the largest precinct meeting ever held there, the most exciting, but no disturbances occurred.

In Shenandoah the Bossman faction elected 20 delegates—19 for Echols and 1 for Marshall. The Bossman faction will elect Montague delegates July 8, thus placing Shenandoah in the contested column.

A solid Montague delegation of 24, with half a vote each, was named at a mass-meeting held at Eastville Northampton county, Monday. The meeting was the largest ever held in the county. Two special trains were run from Charles, one leaving at 12:30 with Swanson advocates, and the other 1 o'clock, with Montague men. Montague won by 122. Senator George W. LeCato was endorsed as lieutenant governor by both factions.

VIRGINIA NEWS.
Virginia applies attention attract at the Buffalo Exposition.
The Jeff Davis monument will be unveiled in Richmond in June, 1903.
Six houses were burned by an incendiary in Portsmouth Tuesday night.
George Kelley, of Northampton county, has been granted a pension of \$8 at Washington.
Louis R. Clarke, and Effus C. Bush, both of Lancaster county, were licensed to marry in Baltimore.
Rev. Walter Whit Williams, Mathews county, and Ella May Lohrke, were licensed in Baltimore to marry.
The friends of the late Dr. Charles L. Cook propose to raise \$10,000 for a memorial library at Hollins Institute.

The machinists' strike at Norfolk has ended and the strikers all returned to work with a nine-hour day and tea hours' pay.

If the strike at Newport News of the machinists had not settled within a comparatively short time the entire shipyard, with its 7,000 men, will close down.

Rev. Preston Garland Nash, rector of Christ Episcopal Church, Richmond, and one of the most widely known clergymen in Virginia, died at Clifton Springs, N.Y., Monday.

Jollie Knighton, a white youth 19 years old, was jailed at Orange to await the trial of the grand jury. He is charged with attempting to criminally assault Mrs. Mary Hume.

Win. A. Bickers, of Crooked Run, J. D. Butzner, of Fredericksburg, and W. H. Frost, of Stafford, graduated from the University of Virginia, taking the literary degrees, this session.

The Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia passed a resolution offering the Constitutional Convention the use of the University buildings in case its members decide to adjourn from Richmond to a cooler place.

The Hanewinkle Building in Richmond has been transferred to the Seaboard Air Line Railway Company for \$50,000. This building was an early date, taken possession of by the Seaboard Air Line as the general headquarters for offices.

House "D," on Dawson's Row, University of Virginia, was almost totally destroyed by fire Monday morning. The dozen students who occupied the building had a narrow escape, as the flames had a good headway before they were discovered. Those in the second story had to jump from the windows.

J. H. BISCOE FOR THE LEGISLATURE.
Strong Letter Advocating His Nomination.
Belmont, Spotsylvania Co., June 10th, 1901.
To THE FREE LANCE:

I notified in a recent copy of your paper that J. H. Biscoe would likely be our Democratic nominee this fall for the legislature. We, the Democrats in the upper part of the county, believe no better selection of a representative can be found in the county. Henry Biscoe enjoys the full confidence of all who know him. He has always been an unswerving Democrat and has served the party faithfully and well for many years. He is a man of great practicality, high character, wonderful energy, and phenomenally successful in all business undertakings. Starting in life some years ago as a poor boy, he entered the business world with business men and soon measured up with the best of them; and today, with a happy family and a competency around him, he is the most enterprising, energetic and successful farmer and merchant in all this section. He is not what might be termed a speaker, but in every sense a worker, and seems to know just when and where to work. He is an exceedingly careful and conservative man and his interests in all of his business propositions.

He is a man of fine judgment, high morals, stainless in character, and pure in politics, with a clear and clean record, unimpaired with the interests of no man in the county will feel more sensibly the weight of such responsibility and none will likely measure up to the requirements more fully than J. H. Biscoe.

CITIZEN.
Some Inside Politics.
To contest in future all delegations of his opponents seems pretty well to be a policy recently adopted by Mr. Montague. His friend, Mr. Echols, where grounds are revolutionary in the extreme, and it will probably result in serious complications at the Norfolk convention. It is more than probable it will be met by similar tactics by the friends of other candidates.

Already Franklin county has given a sample of this method of politics. It is pretty well agreed that Mr. Swanson's forces there were six or eight to his opponent's one, and the result was a mass-meeting, which was a Montague supporter, signed the list of delegates elected for Swanson by the regularly organized mass-meeting. The hundred or so Montague people withdrew from a contest, and named a list of delegates, and a contest, later, gentlemen who were named, refused to serve, and the friends of the Attorney-General are busy looking up men with gall enough to consent to go before the Norfolk convention and contest the seats of the legally chosen Swanson delegates.

The fight at Newport News is almost on a level with the Franklin game. Some twenty men, in a bunch, who were from Norfolk, were dispersed some of the ward meetings with Montague ballots in their possession. They were ejected, but it is presumed they went into other ward and succeeded in being counted. A Essex county man, who is a supporter of the Attorney-General, happened to be in Newport News on the day of the ward meetings and was urged by Mr. Montague's brother-in-law, Merriam, to vote at the meetings. In relating the incident the gentleman stated that he refused to do so, and that, although he still desired to see Mr. Montague nominated, his enthusiasm had become very much abated by this act upon the part of Mr. Hume.

Views of Delegate Walter.
A. C. Walter, of Orange county, Va., delegate-elect to the constitutional convention, is in the city. He is the real estate dealer, Mr. Walter was elected a delegate as an Independent Republican.

In discussing the coming convention he said that the delegates are mostly liberal and fair-minded men. He does not believe that they will suggest any harsh measures restricting the elective franchise or any measure detrimental to the present educational system of the State. These two questions, Mr. Walter thinks, are the paramount ones in the minds of the people of Virginia. He does not believe, he says, that any member of the convention will have the hardihood to suggest measures looking to the disfranchisement of a large class of native Virginians, who so gallantly fought and shed their blood in defense of their State during the rebellion, because they then, as now, sign their names to making a cross mark. They make up a large class, and their votes must be considered in Virginia, he said.—Washington Post.

Myrtle Lodge Officers.
Myrtle Lodge, I. O. O. F. of this city, elected the following officers at a regular meeting Tuesday night: Noble Grand, J. W. Thomas, Vice Grand, W. D. Carter, Recording Secretary, Joseph M. McCall, Financial Secretary, J. B. Cox, Treasurer, A. Randolph Howard, Chaplain John J. Hedlin.

For Over Fifty Years.
Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup has been used for over fifty years by millions of mothers for their children while teething, with perfect success. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pains, cures wind colic, and is the best remedy for Diarrhoea. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. It is sold everywhere. Beware of cheap imitations. Twenty-five cents a bottle. Be sure and ask for "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup," and take no other kind.

GENERAL NEWS.
Only 22 of the 50 candidates for admission to West Point met the requirements.
Sunday is not a working day in the Government service according to an opinion rendered by Judge Advocate General Leidy, which received the approval of Secretary Long.

Nearly every civilized nation in the world is represented at the international public convention of the Young Men's Christian Association of North America, which began in Boston Tuesday.

The machinists' strike is causing trouble at Savannah, Ga., and the Seaboard Air Line Shops there are guarded by 30 extra police armed with Winchester rifles to protect the non-union men and property.

The profiteering of Admiral Sampson not only will adorn the service medal presented to those engaged in the various battles of the Spanish War, but will be another medal that will be awarded to those whose services were especially meritorious.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.
Hon. John Goode, President.
The Constitutional Convention convened in Richmond yesterday. Hon. John Goode, of Bedford, was elected president and Col. Jos. Patton, secretary.

Mr. Tyler was invited to deliver an address on the opening of the convention.

Eastern Shore Politics.
(Extract from Cape Charles Light.)
We are glad for another reason, that the Republicans have decided to put a ticket in the field and have a regular State organization, as this will afford a city of refuge for that class of people who have been dickered with the Democratic party, when it suits their purpose, and who change their politics as often as they change their religion but who, when they were most needed, to stand up in defense of Democratic principles and men, shrink away and cast their votes for the opposition.

Virginia has been divided into two camps, the one for the Democratic party and the other for the Republican party. The purpose of eradicating just such plants from their body politic, and we feel sure that no better move could have been made to strengthen the Democratic party in Virginia, than the decision just arrived at by the leaders of the Republican party. Our own county needs a revival, we want to see the sheep separated from the goats, and men who are Democrats, Democrats, and Democrats, no man is more liberal than the writer to give credit to the man or woman who may differ with us, either in religion or politics, but we don't like a Methodist, we don't like a Baptist, and when it suits his purpose, to turn to the Baptist or Episcopal church when he goes into another community.

It is to be regretted that the question of church or religion has been brought into the gubernatorial campaign in our county. Mr. Montague has just as much right to be a Universalist as Mr. Echols has to be a Baptist. If he is one, and we don't think the Universalist, the Eastern Shore has no objection to his being a Baptist, but we don't see any reason why we should visit this against him, because we are a shouting Methodist, as we might change our opinion on some subjects, and join the Presbyterian church. Mr. Echols is also a Baptist, but some of his friends on the Eastern Shore say they would be opposed to him if he should happen to be endorsed by Senator Martin. We are frank to say we have no objection to Mr. Echols, but we never knew his religion until the other day; we have not changed our mind since we heard it, and if through the fortunes of war, Mr. Echols should be fortunate enough to be the clerk of the Norfolk convention, we would not be so sure as to whether he was a Baptist, a Methodist, a Presbyterian or even a Quaker, or whether he was endorsed by Mr. Martin or Mr. John Edmunds, of Accomac.

He would likely receive as our county delegates, and believe he would make a good governor. So let us drop the church question and fight it out on political lines; this discussion and criticism can do the church no good on the Eastern Shore, and it is a waste of time and energy, and cannot afford to meet discussions wrought by political intrigues, who, perhaps, never go to church, or even contribute a dollar to its support. We had a little taste of this on our late town election, and recorded. We are a Protestant, but as long as he is an American citizen, we are not prepared to believe that he will prove a Benedict Arnold to his country, because his creed is different from ours, and he believes in God and the public school we are willing to take him on probation.

Playing The Demagogue.
(Chesapeake Watchman.)
The bitterness surrounding the gubernatorial fight is somewhat deplorable, and we sincerely deplore it. The aspirants for the honor at first were actively and joyfully presenting their claims, and the people took a lively interest in the contest. In our judgment, Mr. Montague is entirely responsible for the nervous stage which is now on, and we deliberately charge him with exciting a spirit of discord which is detrimental to Democratic harmony and unity. Seeing that Mr. Swanson was in the field and contending for his chances, he plays the "Bose racket." "Ring Rule"—"Martin Tool"—and other hand-bag music against Mr. Swanson. Now no gentleman who has any self-respect is going to submit to any such measures, and no man, of any manhood or spirit, is surprised that Mr. Swanson indignantly resents such assertions as have been lately made by Mr. Montague.

The people will begin to bear in mind that Mr. Montague played the mud-slinging which was kept up by C. V. Meredith and others. We can see in this indecent conduct of Mr. Montague an effort to besmirch the characters of two of our honorable U. S. Senators—Messrs. Daniel and Martin—and array the people against them. We dislike to charge Mr. Montague with playing the demagogue, and yet his conduct in this regard is against our will to suspect his motives. If Mr. Montague knows of the existence of a ring to defeat the wishes of the people, it is his bounden duty, being an officer in the State, to indict the offenders and put on them the shackles of the law.

Northumberland Delegates.
The Democrats of Northumberland county Monday elected delegates to the gubernatorial convention as follows: Lloyd T. Smith, B. Chambers, J. B. Gay, Dr. A. H. Edwards, William H. Hannon, J. F. Snow, Arthur Booth, W. B. Cockrell and W. M. Anderson, J. E. Chambers offered a resolution that the delegates elected be instructed to vote for C. A. Swanson. A. S. Rice offered an amendment to the effect that the delegates be instructed to vote for A. J. Montague and Senator George W. LeCato. The amendment was adopted by a large majority.

Stafford Man Drowned.
Those O'Conner, aged 21 years, of Stafford, was drowned Monday by falling overboard from a barge at Richmond. His body was taken to Stafford for burial yesterday. He was a son of Wm. O'Conner, of Stafford, and brother of Wm. O'Conner, of Washington.

Five Hay Crop.
Capt. M. R. Rowe has just finished harvesting and housing over 50 acres of a splendid crop of mixed oats and vetch for hay purposes. The growth was very heavy and the yield large.

THE WASHINGTON GUARDS.
Competitive Squad Drill.
A most interesting and exciting squad drill was held by the Washington Guards last Monday night. The contest between the first and second squads being quite close and exciting, the first squad being victorious.

The third squad was greatly handicapped by having only six men. The following is the successful squad: Sgt. Proctor, Corporal Freeman, Privates, Carmel, Hill, Estes, Horne, White, Morke, and A. J. Jones. E. W. Starnes, R. R. G. Peatross, and the monthly guardmount was also held Monday night, which was very interesting and instructive to those present.

A competitive drill of the non-commissioned officers for a medal will be placed Monday night at the armory. The company is now in a flourishing condition, it has a membership of sixty enlisted men, and last month had an average attendance of eighty per cent.

SUMMER NORMAL.
Liberal Offer of Rooms Line.
The Western Line of Steamers offers to return free all persons who take their family and baggage to the Summer Normal at Manassas, July 1st-26th. This is the best offer made by any transportation company in the State.

The teachers of Virginia and all who desire to prepare themselves for teaching are entitled to free tuition by an able faculty and to board in private families at \$12 for the term. The rate on the railroad is four cents a mile for the round trip. Further information can be had of George C. Round, local manager, at Manassas.

Local Election Returns.
(Richmond News.)
The election here yesterday showed the general feeling of the people of the people of Richmond. There is a feeling here against anything and everything like ring rule and machine politics. Mr. Swanson was so unfortunate as to be identified in the popular mind with those things, and accordingly, he was punished for the friends he has made.

Of course there is a deal of humming and flapping about the machine business. The evidence indicates that Mr. Swanson has a fairly comfortable little machine of his own, but it has been kept well out of sight and has been prevented from being offensive. Mr. Montague has managed his campaign very well and has utilized the power of the people and made what was thought to be Mr. Swanson's chief source of strength a dead weight and weakness.

Swanson Club Organized at Louisa C. H.
Monday being County Court day, a large crowd was in attendance at Louisa C. H. and many of the farmers and merchants and other representatives of men met in an enthusiastic meeting and organized a Democratic club in the interest of Hon. Claude Swanson for the gubernatorial nomination. The following officers were elected: R. L. C. Barrett, president; L. W. Grier, vice-president; and J. E. Bibb, secretary.

After the organization was perfected encouraging reports were given from all sections of the county and the outlook for the popular Congressman is encouraging.

The following resolution was offered and unanimously adopted: "Resolved, That we endorse the candidacy of Hon. Claude A. Swanson because of his unflinching attention to the farmers of Virginia, and we do hereby instruct our delegates this day elected to the Norfolk convention to cast the vote of this county as a unit for him so long as his name shall be before the convention, and we further instruct our said delegates for all other nominations to be made or persons to be voted for and on all other matters coming before said convention, to cast the vote of this county as a unit, a majority of the delegates to the Norfolk convention, and we do hereby instruct our delegates to cast the vote of this county as a unit for him so long as his name shall be before the convention, and we further instruct our said delegates for all other nominations to be made or persons to be voted for and on all other matters coming before said convention, to cast the vote of this county as a unit, a majority of the delegates to the Norfolk convention, and we do hereby instruct our delegates to cast the vote of this county as a 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